

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An electronic imaging apparatus comprising:

an image sensor device responsive to light focused on said image sensor device from an object to be imaged, for converting said focused light into image data;

a storage medium for storing selected image data from said image sensor device and data related to stored images;

a display for displaying images and related data from said storage medium and images from said image sensor device;

a touch-sensitive shutter button producing a touch signal in response to the touching of a user's finger on said button, and producing an actuation signal upon actuation of said button by a user; and

a processor responsive to said touch signal to cause said display to display an image from said image sensor device, responsive to said actuation signal to cause image data from said image sensor device to be stored in said storage medium, and responsive to the absence of said touch signal to cause said display to display an image and/or related data from said storage medium.

2. An electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said data related to stored images comprises menu data.

3. An electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said display is an LCD.

4. An electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said image sensor device is a CCD array.

5. An electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 2, further including at least one navigation button for selecting an item listed in said menu data.

6. An electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an optical viewfinder for framing images to be captured, and a viewfinder sensor for determining the presence of a user's eye is adjacent to the viewfinder and producing a viewfinder sensor signal in response to said determination; wherein

said processor is responsive to said viewfinder sensor signal to turn off power to said display.

7. In an electronic imaging apparatus having a display, an image sensor for producing image data in response to an optical image focused on said image sensor, and a storage medium for storing image data, the improvement comprising:

a touch-sensitive shutter button responsive to contact of a user's finger thereon for producing a touch signal that causes said display to receive image data from said image sensor and display images corresponding thereto.

8. A method of operating an electronic imaging apparatus having a display capable of being selectively deactivated, comprising the steps of:

providing a touch-sensitive shutter button responsive to contact of a user's finger thereon for producing a touch signal;

displaying on said display an instantaneous image from an image sensor in response to said touch signal; and

displaying data from a storage medium of said apparatus in the absence of said touch signal when said display is activated.

9. A method of operating an electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 8, further comprising the step of providing a viewfinder sensor for detecting the presence of a user's eye adjacent to a viewfinder of said apparatus and producing a viewfinder sensor signal in response thereto; and

deactivating said display in response to said viewfinder sensor signal.

10. A method of operating an electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said display is selectively deactivated in accordance with the expiration of a timeout period.

11. A method of operating an electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein said data from said storage medium includes stored image data and menu data.

12. A method of operating an electronic imaging apparatus as set forth in claim 8, further comprising the step of causing image data from said image sensor to be stored in said storage medium upon actuation of said touch-sensitive shutter button by pressing said shutter button.